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Spatial Distribution Map of Small Caves within Mammoth Cave National Park

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Spatial Distribution Map of Small Caves within Mammoth Cave National Park

Bill Copeland¹

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Abstract

This map is the product of five years of work by John Kirk, the Cave Research Foundation, employees of Mammoth Cave National Park, and myself. This map was constructed using ArcMap 10.3 using a plain background to mask the locations of the caves in the park. Two things stand out. First, there have been more caves located on the south side of Green River, and second, more caves have been surveyed on the north side of the river. During the late 1980s into the 90s, there was a concentrated effort to find and survey small caves on the north side, especially ones that hosted a significant number of bats. What the map doesn't show, but would have if locations were placed on a geologic map, is that north side caves tend to be found along the creeks within the Haney Limestone, and the south side caves tend to be located at or near the Big Clifty/Girkin contact, with a small number found at the bottom of the deep karst valleys.